

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 NIC-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02

DRC-01 /152 W

----- 079203

R 021409Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0372

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: MORE ARRESTS AND SOME ATMOSPHERICS

REFS: (A) ADDIS 9043; ASMARA 0644; (C) USDAO 0503JUL74

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. RADIO ETHIOPIA'S AMHARIC NEWSCAST 1400 HOURS LOCAL AUGUST 2

CARRIED AFCC ANNOUNCEMENT OF DETENTION:

(A) BLATTA WOLDE-HANNA GEBRE KIDAN, VICE AFENEGUS (SINCE 1968) AND

(B) AKLILU BETE MARIAM, GENERAL MANAGER, ETHIOPIAN GRAIN CORPORATION (EGC), BOTH OF WHOM SAID HAVE SURRENDERED VOLUNTARILY.

END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: BLATTA WOLDE-HANNA GEBRE KIDAN BRINGS TO THREE NUMBER OF

RANKING JUDGES WHOSE DETENTION ON ORDERS AFCC ANNOUNCED LAST TWO DAYS. CLEARLY, JUDICIARY CURRENTLY HIGH ON LIST OF REFORMERS. ARREST AKLILU BETE MARIAM REMOVES FROM CIRCULATION ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL (SHOAN) LINKED CLOSELY TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER AKLILU HABTE WOLD, AS WELL AS FORMER MINCOMMERCE YILMA DIRESSA; ONE WIDELY REPUTED FOR HIS GRAFTING, PARTICULARLY DURING HIS TENURE AS DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF THE EGC. END COMMENT.

3. PRESS AUG. 2 AGAIN FEATURING AFCC WARNINGS TO RUMORMONGERS "IN CERTAIN GOVERNORATES GENERAL" (READ ERITREA) TRYING TO FRIGHTEN FOREIGNERS INTO LEAVING THE COUNTRY "BECAUSE IT IS HEADING FOR TROUBLE." AFCC WANTS FOREIGNERS TO STAY AND PROMISES THEM PROTECTION FOR THEIR PERSONS AND PROPERTY. AFCC WILL DO NECESSARY SO THAT TRANSITION IN WHICH ETHIOPIA NOW ENGAGED WILL BE SMOOTH AND BLOODLESS. ASMARA CONSULAR CORPS RECEIVED COMMUNICATION DIRECTLY FROM AFCC ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.

4. IBG PANHARD ARMORED CARS AND JEEPS MOUNTING MACHINE GUNS SEEN IN CAPITAL LAST TWO EVENINGS RUNNING, GIVING RISE TO STORIES ABOUT APPEARANCE OF "TANKS." WE DO NOT KNOW PURPOSE OF THESE DEPLOYMENTS BUT SUSPECT THEY RELATED TO ARRESTS BEING CONDUCTED.

5. PRESS REPORTS THAT REVISED DRAFT CONSTITUTION SCHEDULED BE SUBMITTED (IN AMHARIC) TO NEW PRIME MINISTER EARLY NEXT WEEK.
WYMAN

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